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Agenda item 100

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Darren **Hansen** (Australia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission"

was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984 and 70/67 and 70/68 of 7 December 2015.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September 2016, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 105. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 3 to 7 and from 10 to 12 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 8th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 13 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High

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Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 13 meetings (10th to 22nd), on 13 and 14, from 17 to 21 and from 24 to 27 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at the 22nd to 26th meetings, on 27 and 28 October and from 31 October to 2 November.[1]

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/71/27);

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2016 (A/71/42);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/71/176);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/71/162).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.6

5. At the 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the representative of the Republic of Korea introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/71/L.6).

6. At the 25th meeting, on 1 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.6 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.38

8. At the 19th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Vanuatu, on behalf of the members of the Bureau of the Disarmament Commission, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/71/L.38).

9. At its 25th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.38 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

[1] For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/71/PV.2, A/C.1/71/PV.3, A/C.1/71/PV.4, A/C.1/71/PV.5, A/C.1/71/PV.6, A/C.1/71/PV.7, A/C.1/71/PV.8, A/C.1/71/PV.9, A/C.1/71/PV.10, A/C.1/71/PV.11, A/C.1/71/PV.12, A/C.1/71/PV.13, A/C.1/71/PV.14, A/C.1/71/PV.15, A/C.1/71/PV.16, A/C.1/71/PV.17, A/C.1/71/PV.18, A/C.1/71/PV.19, A/C.1/71/PV.20, A/C.1/71/PV.21, A/C.1/71/PV.22, A/C.1/71/PV.23, A/C.1/71/PV.24, A/C.1/71/PV.25 and A/C.1/71/PV.26.

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials in the Conference on Disarmament, as expressions of support and concern for the endeavours of the Conference and as calls for the Conference to immediately commence negotiations to advance disarmament goals through the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Recognizing also the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues, and considering that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations,

Noting with renewed concern that, despite the intensive efforts by States members and successive Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament at its 2016 session to reach consensus on a programme of work on the basis of relevant proposals and suggestions, the Conference did not succeed in commencing its substantive work, including negotiations, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/67 of 7 December 2015, or in agreeing on and implementing a programme of work,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

Welcoming the overwhelming call for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament without further delay, on the basis of a balanced and comprehensive programme of work,

Appreciating the continued cooperation among the States members of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the six successive Presidents of the Conference at its 2016 session,

Noting with appreciation the significant contributions made at the 2016 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, including the informal discussions, and noting the discussions on the functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/71/27).

Emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as a stand-alone, autonomous institution, and the contribution that its research makes,

Recognizing the importance of engagement between civil society and the Conference on Disarmament according to decisions taken by the Conference,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2017 session,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Appreciates* the strong support expressed for the Conference on Disarmament at its 2016 session by Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, while also acknowledging their concern about its ongoing impasse, and takes into account their calls for greater flexibility with respect to commencing the substantive work of the Conference without further delay;

3. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to further intensify consultations and to explore possibilities for overcoming its ongoing deadlock of two decades by adopting and implementing a balanced and comprehensive programme of work at the earliest possible date during its 2017 session, bearing in mind the decision on the programme of work adopted by the Conference on 29 May 2009,[2] as well as other relevant present, past and future proposals;

4. *Acknowledges* the fact that the Conference on Disarmament has held a series of substantive formal and informal discussions on items on the agenda of the Conference;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to request the current President and the incoming President of the Conference to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, past, present and future, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations;

6. *Requests* all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations, at its 2017 session;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing consultations in 2017 on the question of the expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure and to strengthen, if needed, the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of all necessary administrative, substantive and conference support services;

9. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on its work;

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[2] Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27), para. 18.

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Draft resolution II
Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013, 69/77 of 2 December 2014 and 70/68 of 7 December 2015,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission",[2] Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3]

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 17

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/71/42).
[2] Resolution 44/119 C, annex.
[3] Resolution S-10/2.

years, and thus encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its current triennial cycle;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[2]

5. *Recalls* the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, at its 355th meeting, on 4 April 2016, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2016,1 on the understanding that consultations would continue on ways and means to implement resolution 69/77, and that the Commission decided that the agenda for its substantive session of 2015 should serve for the period 2015-2017;

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2017:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

7. *Notes* the consultations with Member States conducted by the Chair of the Disarmament Commission during its intersessional period regarding a working paper containing a proposal for the inclusion of a third item in its agenda for the remaining period of the present triennial cycle[4] in the context of considering ways and means to implement General Assembly resolution 69/77, in accordance with Assembly decision 52/492, and encourages the Commission to hold informal discussions on the subject contained in the above-mentioned working paper during the substantive session of the Commission in 2017, without prejudice to the deliberations on the existing agenda items;

8. *Also notes* that the Disarmament Commission encourages the Chairs of its working groups to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item allocated to each of the groups;

9. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (e) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2017, namely from 3 to 21 April, and to submit a

[4] A/CN.10/2016/WP.1.

substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2016 session,[5] together with all the official records of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

12. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2017 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2017 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

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[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/71/27).